

STRANGE TALES

MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

FEATURING THE FLAMING,
FIGHTING, HIGH-FLYING
HUMAN TORCH!

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
PROUDLY PRESENTS —

"THE RETURN OF
THE EEL!"

ONE OF THE MOST ELUSIVE
SUPER-CRIMINALS
OF ALL TIME!!



ALSO FEATURING:
DOCTOR STRANGE
in
"THE TERRIBLE TRAPS OF
BARON MORDO!"

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YOU'VE READ ABOUT IT!

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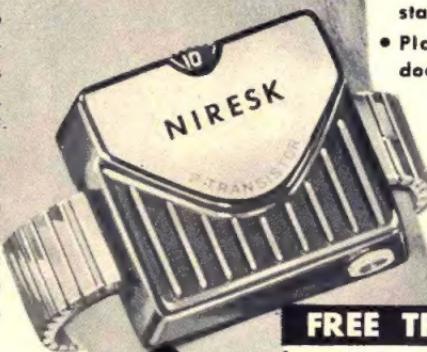
To Delight Every Man, Woman, Girl and Boy

Be the first in your neighborhood to own this amazing Niresk All Transistor Wrist Radio. Music, News, Sports now available to you 24 hours a day. Imagine, being the proud owner of a radio less than 2 inches square. The unit is installed in a highly shock resistant case and comes with a beautiful stainless wrist band. The 2 tiny mercury hearing aid batteries are guaranteed to play for 100 hours. Batteries are obtainable everywhere for about 35¢.

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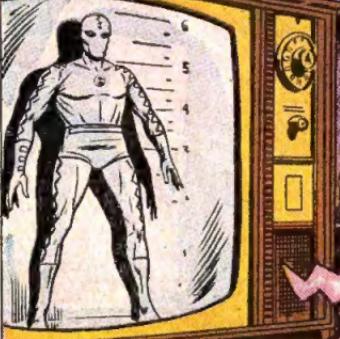
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VERY OFTEN, THE MOST HAIR-RAISING ADVENTURE CAN START IN A COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED WAY--AS WHEN JOHNNY STORM, IDLY TOSSED FLAME DARTS IN HIS BASEMENT PLAYROOM, HEARS A STARTLING TV NEWS BULLETIN...



IT HAS JUST BEEN LEARNED THAT ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINALS OF OUR TIME, THE POWERFUL PUBLIC ENEMY KNOWN AS THE EEL, IS NOW AT LARGE AGAIN!



the **HUMAN TORCH**

"THE RETURN OF **THE EEL!**"

I BEAT HIM IN THE PAST*, AND I CAN BEAT HIM AGAIN! FIRST THING TO DO IS SNEAK TO THE PRISON AND GET ALL THE INFO I CAN FROM THE WARDEN!

JOHNNY, WAIT! I JUST HUNG THOSE NEW DRAPES--THEY'RE NOT FIREPROOF! IF YOU SINGE THEM, LITTLE BROTHER, I'LL--

**FLAME
ON!**

WRITTEN BY:
STAN LEE
ILLUSTRATED BY:
DICK AYERS
LETTERED BY:
ART SIMEK

* STRANGE TALES #112,
"THE LIVING BOMB!!!

OKAY, BIG SISTER, I'LL USE THE CHIMNEY INSTEAD! BUT IT'S A HECK OF A NOTE WHEN A FLAMING GLAMOR-BOY LIKE ME GETS YELLED AT BECAUSE OF A NEW SET OF PRAPIES!

WHEEE! THIS ISN'T BAD AT ALL! I FEEL LIKE A HUMAN POLARIS MISSILE! I'LL BET I'M A LIVIN' INSPIRATION TO ANY CHICKS WHO ARE WATCHING!



A FEW FLAMING MINUTES LATER...

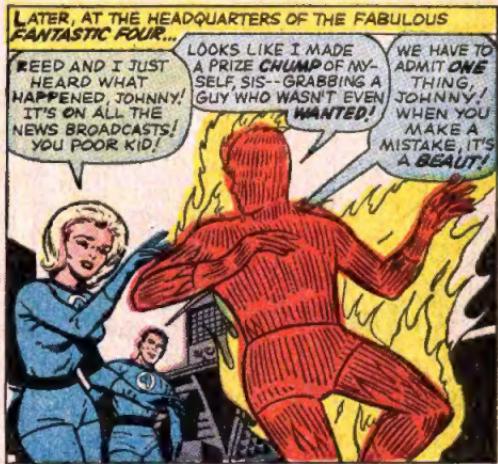
HEY! THIS IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! THERE'S THE EEL NOW! HE MUST HAVE JUST BROKEN OUT!



I'M JUST MAKING IT MY BUSINESS, PAL! NOW START WALKING IF YOU DON'T WANT THAT CIRCLE OF FLAME TO GET ANY CLOSER!

CUT IT OUT, YOU MANIAC! OKAY, OKAY-- I'LL GO--BUT YOU'LL REGRET THIS, TORCH.





BUT, ARE THE TORCH'S APPREHENSIONS REALLY JUSTIFIED? IN ORDER TO FIND OUT, LET US LOOK INSIDE THE MAIN HALL OF OCEAN VIEW AQUARIUM, WHERE WE FIND THE CARETAKER, LEOPOLD STRYKE, BACK ON THE JOB AGAIN AFTER A LONG ABSENCE!

I KNEW THEY'D GIVE ME MY OLD JOB BACK AGAIN! ---
--- ESPECIALLY WHEN I GAVE 'EM THAT SOB STORY ABOUT PAYING MY DEBT TO SOCIETY!



BESIDES, I'M THE BEST CARETAKER THIS AQUARIUM EVER HAD! I'VE GOT A WAY WITH FISH, AND THEY KNOW IT!

THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO CALL MYSELF THE EEL WHEN I EMBARKED ON MY CAREER OF CRIME!
BECAUSE I'M AS SLIPPERY, AND AS DANGEROUS AS THE ELECTRIC EEL!



I STILL HAVE MY SPECIALLY-BUILT HELICOPTER HIDDEN SAFELY AWAY, AS WELL, AS ALL THE OTHER TOOLS OF MY CHOSEN TRADE! AND THIS AQUARIUM MAKES A PERFECT BASE OF OPERATIONS FOR ME!

WELL, IT'S FEEDING TIME FOR MY ELECTRIC EELS NOW... AND I WOULDN'T DREAM OF LETTING MY SUPERCHARGED LITTLE FRIENDS GO HUNGRY!



LATER THAT NIGHT, AFTER THE EELS AND THE OTHER SEA-GOING CREATURES HAVE BEEN FED, LEOPOLD STRYKE REPAIRS TO HIS PRIVATE ROOM, AT THE REAR OF THE AQUARIUM...

HOW GOOD IT FELT TO WEAR MY EEL COSTUME WHEN I LEFT THE JAIL! BUT I ONLY DID IT FOR A LARK!



HOWEVER, NOW I SHALL WEAR IT FOR A MORE SERIOUS PURPOSE! IT IS TIME FOR ME TO TEST OUT ALL THE SECRET IMPROVEMENTS I'VE MADE ON MY PROTECTIVE SUIT!

I'VE WIRED THE ENTIRE FABRIC SO THAT IT CAN GIVE OFF ELECTRICAL CHARGES, JUST LIKE MY LITTLE NAMESAKES! AND I'VE ARRANGED OTHER SURPRISES FOR ANY WHO DARE OPPOSE ME!



AND NOW, MY GLEAMING, SQUIRMING LITTLE FRIENDS, THE EEL IS AGAIN READY TO STRIKE, BUT THIS TIME NOTHING SHALL STOP ME! AND IF THE HUMAN TORCH DARES TO INTERFERE, HE WILL LEARN THAT THE POWER OF THE EEL IS FAR GREATER THAN HIS OWN!



MEANTIME, THE TORCH IS RESTLESS! BEFORE SLEEPING, HE DECIDES TO PATROL THE CITY--SEARCHING FOR ANY SIGNS OF THE EEL!

SO FAR SO GOOD!
EVERYTHING IS
QUIET BELOW!



BUT, FROM HIS VANTAGE POINT IN THE SKY, THE FLAMING FIREBRAND CANNOT SEE THE SILENT, BLUE-CLAD FIGURE WHO STEALTHILY LOWERS HIMSELF BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE SLEEPING CITY...



I'LL STEAL SOMETHING EQUALLY AS VALUABLE AS MONEY--BUT SOMETHING WHICH THAT BLAZING BRAT WON'T EVEN THINK OF GUARDING, UNTIL TOO LATE!



MINUTES LATER, IN ANOTHER SECTION OF THE SPRAWLING CITY, A HEAVY GREY MANHOLE COVER IS CAUTIOUSLY RAISED AS A PAIR OF PIERCING EYES SURVEY THE SCENE WITH GRIM SATISFACTION.



THIS IS THE PLACE I HAVE BEEN SEEKING! THE OFFICE OF THE CITY'S LEADING STAMP COLLECTOR SHOP! I NOTICED AN ARTICLE IN THIS MORNING'S PAPER MENTIONING THAT THE STAMPS WHICH ARE KEPT HERE ARE ALMOST PRICELESS!

HOW EASY IT IS FOR ME TO SHORT-CIRCUIT THE BURGLAR ALARM WITH A SIMPLE ELECTRICAL CHARGE!



THERE GOES THE TORCH, ON HIS USELESS PATROL OF THE CITY! THE YOUNG FOOL! I'LL BE SAFELY BACK AT THE AQUARIUM BEFORE HE EVEN REALIZES A SENSATIONAL ROBBERY HAS BEEN COMMITTED!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE..

IF I KNOW THE TORCH, HE WILL BE KEEPING HIS EYE ON BANKS, JEWELRY STORES AND THE LIKE, WAITING FOR ME TO STRIKE! BUT I'M TOO SMART FOR HIM!

FROM OUTER SPACE

IT HAD been expected for a long time, so it wasn't too much of a shock when the first visitors from outer space made contact with the world. For quite a number of years, science-fiction novels, movies and television programs had been playing up this inevitable fact, and scientists and physicists had been making great progress in our own space travel. Of course, the space platforms had only been completed two years before by the United Nations, so contact hadn't really been expected this soon. It had been thought too, that when contact was made with our galaxy neighbors, it would be made by us, and not by that strange spaceship standing up there in the black void like a sentinel, waiting for us to make the first move.

Jonathan Dittmar probably knew more about the visitors than any other earthman, and that wasn't much. Jonathan had been head of the U.N. Commission to build and control the space platform, and as one of the leading scientists of the day, he had all the facts of space travel and its problems at his fingertips. It wasn't unusual then, for him to be chosen also as head of the Commission to deal with the visitors from outer space and arrange the first meeting between them and earth.

"I suppose you all know the facts, gentlemen," Jonathan spoke to the Earth Peace Commission. "The visitors have not, as yet, attempted to make any

contact with us through the usual means of communication . . . radio, television . . . nor have they made any attempt to come into our gravitational field to contact us directly. They are just sitting up there," he pointed vaguely toward the stars with his hand, "and they seem to be waiting for us to come to them."

"Surely they have seen our space platform," one of the members wondered.

"They must have," Jonathan said. "It passes directly within their field of vision every two hours."

"Do you think they have telescopes or television screens powerful enough to observe us down here on earth?" another man questioned.

"I'm sure they do," Jonathan told the men. "Any civilization who can pull themselves out of their own planet's gravitational field must have these technical instruments. We are observing them with our radar and television; there is no reason to believe that they are not doing the same with us."

There were more questions and answers, and invariably Jonathan was able to work out probable answers and solutions. The end decision was the only thing it could have been. The Commission was to take one of the space ferries up to the space platform and attempt from there to make contact with the strangers.

Still nothing was heard from

the space visitors by the time the Commission was to blast off. The men were as prepared as they could be, but Jonathan was worried. The same questions ran through each of their minds. "What kind of 'things' will the visitors be?" "Will any verbal contact be possible?" and most important of all, "What will they expect from us?"

The trip to the space platform from Earth was over within two hours, and when the six members of the Commission disembarked on the bleak, dark space platform, they found that the alien ship had guessed their intention and had sent a smaller envoy ship with their own Committee to the platform too. Now the time was at hand. The Earthmen stood in the middle of the field staring at the small, strange ship hovering only a few feet beyond. Finally, the men saw the ramp of the foreign vessel being lowered and a hatch opening. Soon, a shadow appeared within, and then others beside him. Jonathan signaled quickly for more lights to be turned upon the ship. In a moment, sharp arc-lights sputtered into life and the doorway of the ship was brighter than the sun.

There were three of them. Definitely humanoid in shape. Two arms, legs and a head with very human features. The two groups of men walked toward each other. Jonathan inspected the visitors carefully. "Yes," he thought, "if they wore different

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**10 DAY
MONEY BACK
GUARANTEE!**

AND THE EEL'S PREDICTION PROVES TO BE CORRECT! FOR, AS JOHNNY SCANS THE PAPER THE NEXT MORNING...

SIS, LOOK! A FORTUNE IN STAMPS WAS STOLEN LAST NIGHT... AND THE THIEF DIDN'T EVEN LEAVE A SINGLE CLUE! I'LL BET--!

NOW, JOHNNY-- DON'T GO LEAPING TO CONCLUSIONS!



BUT THE EAGER TEEN-AGER CANNOT RESTRAIN HIS EXCITEMENT AS HE RACES TO THE BAXTER BUILDING, WHERE MR. FANTASTIC TELLS HIM...

YOU'RE RIGHT, JOHNNY! IT HAS ALL THE EARMARKS OF A ROBBERY BY THE EEL! BUT UNTIL YOU CAN GET SOME PROOF...

SURE! SURE! I KNOW ALL THAT, REED! BUT THIS IS MY CHANCE TO SHOW THE WARDEN I WAS RIGHT ABOUT THAT CREEP, SO GANGWAY!



BUT, ANOTHER PAIR OF EYES ALSO PERUSE THE PAPER EACH MORNING, SEARCHING FOR INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL ITEMS! AND, THE NEXT DAY, WE FIND LEOPOLD STRYKE AT THE AQUARIUM...

AHHH! PRINCE SINGH RAM OF TURKISTAN IS IN NEW YORK WITH THE FABLED RAM RUBY, THE LARGEST AND MOST VALUABLE IN THE WORLD!



AS SOON AS I CLOSE THE AQUARIUM TODAY, I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THE EEL VISITS HIS PENTHOUSE SUITE TO WELCOME HIM TO OUR TOWN--AND ESPECIALLY TO WELCOME HIS SOON-TO-BE STOLEN GEM!



THAT NIGHT, THE LOCK INSIDE A PENTHOUSE WINDOW IS EXPERTLY UNLATCHED AS THE LITHE, MASKED FORM OF THE EEL SLINKS INTO THE EXPENSIVE RICHLY-FURNISHED HOTEL SUITE OF PRINCE SINGH RAM...

THE CARELESS FOOL! HE HAS THE RUBY ON A NIGHT TABLE BESIDE HIM! BUT, NOT FOR LONG!



THIS WILL BECOME FAMOUS AS THE GREATEST THEFT OF THE CENTURY! AND NO ONE WILL EVER BE ABLE TO PROVE THAT THE EEL WAS RESPONSIBLE!

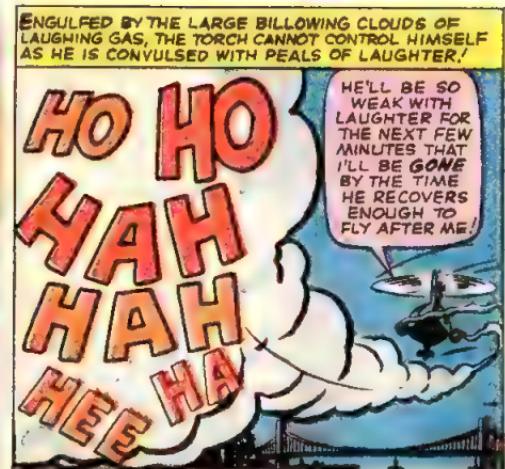


BUT SUDDENLY, UNEXPECTEDLY, THE GIANT RUBY
BURSTS INTO FLAME, AS IT SEEMS TO BE STRUCK
BY A TINY, BLAZING PELLET WHICH STRIKES IT
FROM ACROSS THE ROOM!



YOU TOOK ME BY SURPRISE BECAUSE I NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO BE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO TRY TO BATTLE ME--
CONSIDERING THAT I'M SO MUCH YOUR SUPERIOR--AS I SHALL NOW DEMONSTRATE!





BUT LATER, RETURNING HOME AFTER GIVING UP THE CHASE, THE FLAMING TEEN-AGER IS LIVID WITH RAGE!

JOHNNY, GET HOLD OF YOURSELF! THE EEL ONLY WON THE FIRST ROUND!

THAT'S NOT THE POINT! CAN'T YOU SEE?? HE MADE A FOOL OF ME, TWICE IN A ROW!!

CAN YOU IMAGINE IF THE THING EVER HEARS OF THIS?? BASHFUL BENJAMIN WON'T EVER STOP RIDIN' ME! AND THE KIDS AT SCHOOL-- I'LL BE ASHAMED TO SHOW MY FACE IN CLASS!

WELL, STANDING THERE AND SMOKING UP THE LIVING ROOM ISN'T DOING YOU THE LEAST BIT OF GOOD, JOHNNY! WHY DON'T YOU GO AFTER HIM AGAIN?

WOMEN!! THEY'RE ALL NUTS! DO YOU THINK HE LEFT HIS ADDRESS WITH ME?? HOW DO I KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM? HE WON'T BE IN THE ANONE BOOK!!

DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT HIS HELICOPTER HAD PONTOONS?? THAT WOULD INDICATE IT'S WATER-BASED, WOULDN'T IT?

AND WHILE A MAN CAN HIDE EFFECTIVELY IN A BIG CITY, IT'S NOT EASY TO CONCEAL A HELICOPTER, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT HAS TO BE ON THE WATER!

WATER! EEL! OF COURSE! WHAT A MEATHHEAD I AM! HE'S GOT TO BE BACK AT THE AQUARIUM! SUSIE, OL' SIS, YOU'RE THE MOST!



AND SO... THAT LIGHTHOUSE JUST OFF SHORE-- A PERFECT PLACE TO DOCK HIS HELICOPTER! SUE WAS RIGHT!

BUT I MUSTN'T DO ANYTHING RASH AGAIN! I STILL HAVEN'T ANY PROOF! HOW DO I WRING A CONFESSION OUT OF HIM?



BUT THIS TIME IT IS THE EEL WHO MAKES THE FIRST MISTAKE--! FOR, AS LEOPOLD STRYKE SEES JOHNNY STORM WALKING IN THE AQUARIUM HALL, THE MASTER CRIMINAL PANICS!

HE FOUND ME! WE WOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE WITHOUT A PLAN! BUT I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM! I'VE GOT TO STRIKE FIRST!

I'LL JUST LOOK AROUND FOR A WHILE, AND SEE IF I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO NEXT!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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Makes saving a
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which are so effective
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on how to perform
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2109

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ITEM # NAME OF ITEM HOW MANY TOTAL PRICE

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Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus postage

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NERVOUS AND WORRIED, THE AQUARIUM CARETAKER BOLTS FOR HIS PRIVATE ROOM AT THE REAR OF THE BUILDING, DETERMINED TO STRIKE THE FIRST BLOW IN HIS FINAL SHOWDOWN WITH THE TORCH!

I'LL CHANGE TO THE EEL
AND THEN GET RID OF
THAT MEDDLING BRAT,
ONCE AND FOR ALL!

THINK I'LL TAKE
A LOOK AT THE
ELECTRIC EEL'S
TANK! SHOULD
BE INTERESTING!



FINDING THE EEL EXHIBIT, JOHNNY STORM STARES AT THE STRANGE CREATURES WITH GREAT INTEREST. IN FACT, SO ABSORBED IS HE IN HIS OWN THOUGHTS, THAT HE DOESN'T REALIZE THE AQUARIUM HAS BEEN CLOSED AND THE DOORS BOLTED. HE IS THE ONLY VISITOR REMAINING.

FASCINATING LITTLE THINGS!
AND A LOT MORE DANGEROUS
THAN THEY LOOK!
JUST LIKE THE EEL
HIMSELF!



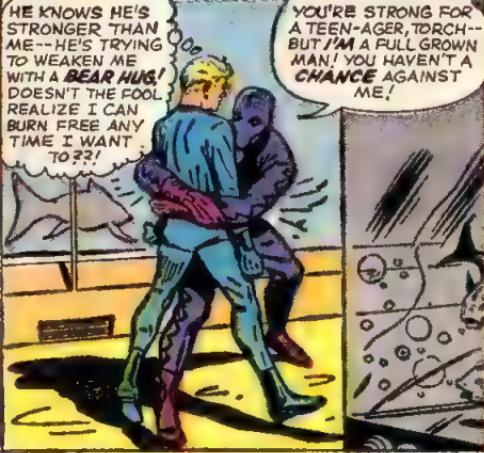
AND THEN, WITHOUT WARNING,
THE MYSTERIOUS MENACE
STRIKES!

SO, MY LITTLE
FRIENDS AMUSE YOU, EH,
TORCH! WELL, PERHAPS
YOU'LL FIND ME
EQUALLY AMUSING!



HE KNOWS HE'S
STRONGER THAN
ME--HE'S TRYING
TO WEAKEN ME
WITH A BEAR HUG!
DOESN'T THE FOOL
REALIZE I CAN
BURN FREE ANY
TIME I WANT.
TO??!

YOU'RE STRONG FOR
A TEEN-AGER, TORCH--
BUT I'M A FULL GROWN
MAN! YOU HAVEN'T A
CHANCE AGAINST
ME!



DID I EVER TELL YOU HOW MANY JOES WHO
USED TO TELL ME THAT SAME THING ARE
NOW COOLING THEIR HEELS BEHIND BARS??!

I DON'T GET
IT! MY BODY
HEAT ISN'T
BOthering
HIM!



YOU SEEM SURPRISED, TORCH! YOU'RE WONDERING
WHY YOUR HEAT DOESN'T AFFECT ME--AND WHY YOU
CAN'T FLAME ON ANY HOTTER! WELL, PERHAPS I
SHOULD EXPLAIN--

I TOOK THE
SIMPLE PRECAU-
TION OF COVERING
MY COSTUME WITH
ASBESTOS
GREASE! YOUR
FLAME CANNOT
ENDURE CONTACT
WITH IT!



THANKS FOR THE LECTURE, EEL, BUT YOU OUT-SMARTED YOURSELF THIS TIME! NOT ONLY DOES THAT ASBESTOS GREASE STOP MY FLAME, BUT ALSO...

...IT MAKES YOUR GRIP SO SLIPPERY THAT I CAN SLITHER OUT OF IT-- LIKE THIS!



MAYBE NOT, BUT YOU'LL WISH YOU WERE ONE BEFORE I'M FINISHED WITH YOU, KID!



YOU'RE SO USED TO USING YOUR FLAME AS A WEAPON, THAT YOU'RE CONFUSED AND SLOW WITHOUT IT!

OHHHH!



HAVING BEEN WEAKENED BY THE EEL'S POWERFUL BEAR HUG, THE TORCH WALKS INTO A HARD-DRIVING LEFT, AND CRUMBLIES INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS!

PERFECT! NOW THERE IS NOTHING TO STOP ME FROM DISPOSING OF HIM IN MY OWN UNIQUE MANNER!



ALL I NEED DO IS CARRY THE YOUNG MEDDLER UP-STAIRS TO THE SHARKS' FEEDING TANK! WHATEVER HAPPENS TO HIM NEXT WILL BE HIS OWN FAULT! I **WARNED** HIM NOT TO OPPOSE THE ELUSIVE **EEL!** BUT, LIKE ALL BRASH JUVENILES, HE WOULDNT LISTEN!



BUT, AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND, JOHNNY RECOVERS CONSCIOUSNESS, AND, SLOWLY OPENING ONE EYE, HE SEES...



ALL WITHIN THE SPACE OF THAT ONE BRIEF MICROSECOND, THE TORRID TEEN-AGER USES THE TRAINING GIVEN HIM BY FABULOUS MISTER FANTASTIC AND TAKES IN THE ENTIRE SITUATION IN ONE GLANCE! HE NOTES THE DEADLY SHARK WAITING BELOW...



THERE! AT THE PRESS OF A BUTTON, I CAN OPEN THE TRAP DOOR LEADING TO THE SHARK TANK!



...AND THE SEALED DRUM STANDING NEARBY - THE DRUM CONTAINING THE EEL'S SUPPLY OF AMAZING ASBESTOS GREASE! AND THEN, IN THE SPACE OF ONE HEARTBEAT...



...THE HUMAN TORCH BLAZES INTO ACTION!!!



MY MY! DON'T YOU LOOK ANGRY, EEL? YOU'RE SCARING ME HALF TO DEATH WAVING YOUR BIG BAD FIST AT ME LIKE THAT!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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IF YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THIS CATALOG

YOU HAVE MORE THAN MY FISTS TO FEAR NOW,
TORCH! I DIDN'T BOTHER USING MY ELECTRO-
STUNNER ON YOU BEFORE, BECAUSE I THOUGHT
I DIDN'T NEED IT. BUT NOW--



DIDN'T IT OCCUR TO YOU THAT MY FLAME, BURN-
ING AT HIGH INTENSITY, WOULD CAUSE YOUR
ELECTRIC BLAST TO BACKFIRE, SO THAT YOU'D
RECEIVE THE BRUNT OF IT??!

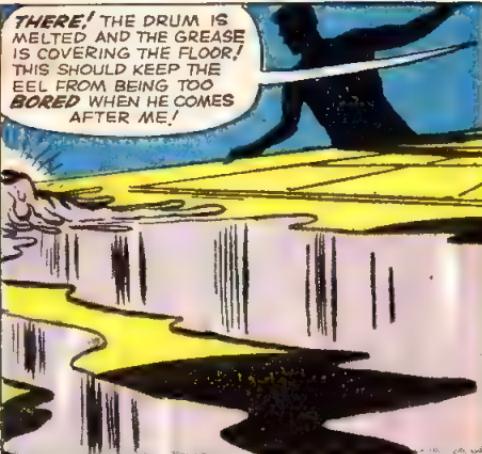


AND NOW, WHILE MY WALTZING PARTNER IS
"RESTING", I'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANOTHER
OVERSIGHT OF HIS...

ALTHOUGH HIS GREASE IS
TREATED WITH FIREPROOF
ASBESTOS, HE FAILED TO
COAT THE DRUM WHICH
HOLDS IT WITH ASBESTOS!
AND SO...



THERE! THE DRUM IS
MELTED AND THE GREASE
IS COVERING THE FLOOR!
THIS SHOULD KEEP THE
EEL FROM BEING TOO
BORED WHEN HE COMES
AFTER ME!



OKAY, EEL! LET'S
WRAP THIS THING
UP NOW!

I'VE GOT A HEAVY
DATE TONIGHT AND
DON'T WANNA BE
LATE ON ACCOUNT
OF YOU!! SO, IF YOU
WANT ME, COME
AND GET ME!



I SURE WILL, TORCH! YOU WON'T BE KEEPING THAT
DATE, OR ANY-- HEY! WHAT THE--??!

IT WORKED! YOU'RE SLIPPING!
THE GREASE THREW YOU OFF-
BALANCE! NOW TO PULL THIS
LEVER!



I FIGURED IT JUST **RIGHT!** HAVE A NICE TRIP, GOOD BUDDY!

NO, DON'T! DON'T LET ME FALL DOWN THERE!



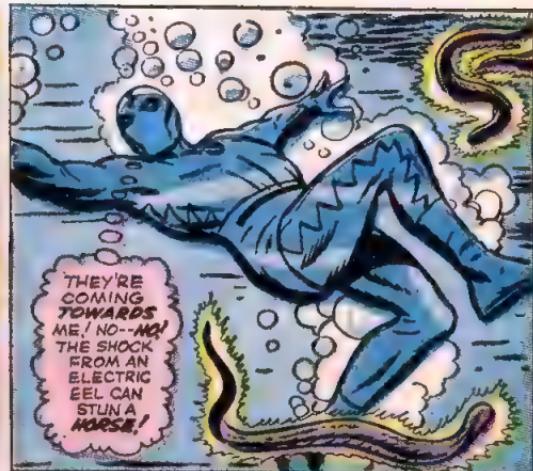
THEN, SEEING THAT HIS OPPONENT'S SPIRIT IS BROKEN, AND HIS WILL TO FIGHT IS GONE, THE TORCH FLAMES ON AGAIN AND HURLS A BARRAGE OF FIREBALLS INTO THE EEL TANK...

DON'T WORRY, BIG MAN! I WON'T LET THOSE BIG BAD EELS HURT YOU! THESE LITTLE FIREBALLS WILL KEEP THEM AWAY UNTIL YOU CAN PULL YOURSELF OUT OF THERE!



BUT, ONCE THE POLICE HAUL THE NOW-DEFEATED MASTER CRIMINAL AWAY, THE TORCH WASTES NO TIME WORRYING ABOUT HIS THREAT! INSTEAD, THE NEXT EVENING FINDS HIM...

I READ THIS ISSUE A DOZEN TIMES ALREADY, BUT ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN LOOKING AT, OR EVEN THINKING ABOUT ANY MORE FISH!



THEY'RE COMING TOWARDS ME!

NO-NO! THE SHOCK FROM AN ELECTRIC EEL CAN STUN A HORSE!

AFTER CASUALLY PHONING THE POLICE, THE TORCH ENCIRCLES THE DEFEATED EEL IN A WALL OF FLAME, AMUSING HIMSELF WITH LIGHT BANTER UNTIL THE OFFICERS ARRIVE...

TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T MAKE YOUR ASBESTOS GREASE WATERPROOF, TOO! THEN IT WOULDN'T HAVE WASHED OFF WHEN YOU TOOK A DUNKING! TSK TSK!

DON'T YOU EVER SHUT UP! YOU'VE ONLY WON THE FIRST ROUND! I'LL GET YOU YET!



HI, LITTLE BROTHER! ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE BAXTER BUILDING, I DID A LITTLE SHOPPING, AND I BOUGHT YOU A PRESENT! BEN AND REED HELPED ME CARRY IT!



JUST A LITTLE MEMENTO OF YOUR BATTLE WITH THE EEL! LIKE IT, JOHNNY?

OH, NO! HOW DO YA LIKE THAT? HE'S SO IMPRESSED, HE CAN'T EVEN SPEAK!!



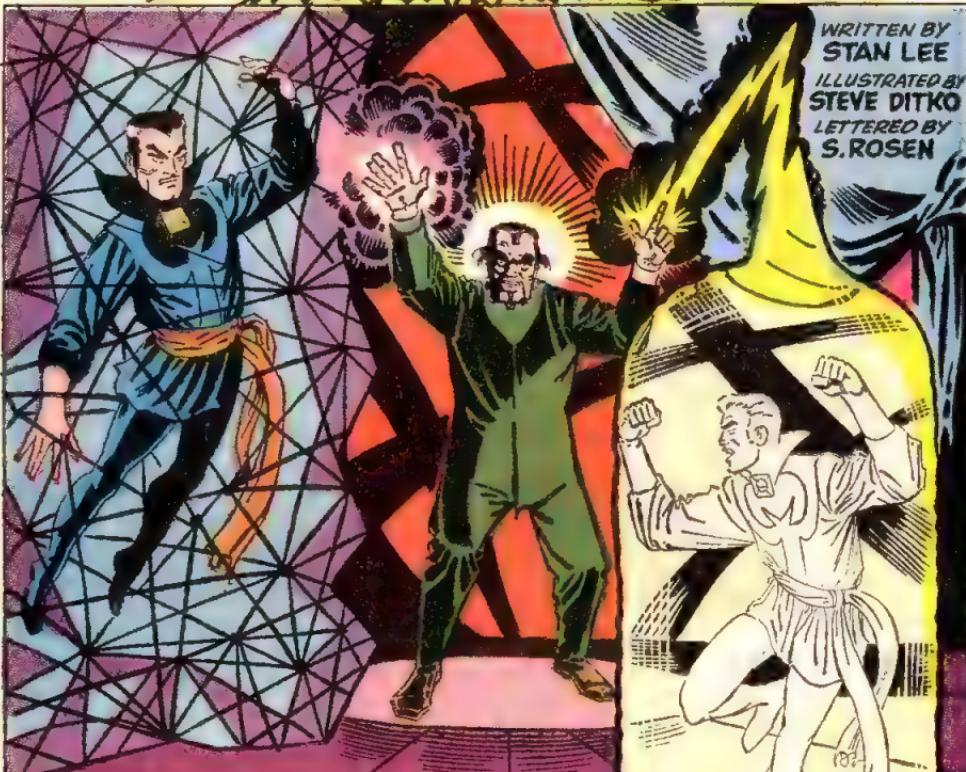
THE END

DOCTOR STRANGE

FACES

"THE MANY TRAPS OF BARON MORDO!"

WRITTEN BY
STAN LEE
ILLUSTRATED BY
STEVE DITKO
LETTERED BY
S. ROSEN



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THERE!—IT IS DONE! BY USE OF A SIMPLE SPELL, I HAVE CREATED AN EXACT MINIATURE REPLICA OF THE HOME OF DR. STRANGE!



AND NOW, WHEN I REPEAT THE SPELL, SAYING IT SLOWLY... A MAGICAL MIST COVERS MY PRECIOUS MODEL!



THEN, AT THE NEXT COMMAND OF BARON MORDO, MY ENCHANTED MIST DRIFTS OUT OF MY WINDOW... AND INTO THE SKY!



....WHERE IT SETTLES OVER THE REAL-LIFE HOUSE OF THE ACCURSED DR. STRANGE!



...SLOWLY, SILENTLY, THE MIST PENETRATES EVERY BRICK, EVERY PIECE OF STONE AND WOOD AND MORTAR, UNTIL IT BECOMES PART OF THE HOUSE ITSELF!



AND SO IT IS DONE! MY TRAP IS SET; THE HOME OF DR. STRANGE IS UNDER MY SPELL... THE SPELL OF BARON MORDO!



LATER, A TALL, STATELY FIGURE WALKS THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE CITY...



IT IS THE IMPOSING FIGURE OF DR. STRANGE, MASTER OF BLACK MAGIC!! LOST IN THOUGHT, THE SILENT MAN HAS NO SUSPICION OF WHAT AWAITS HIM!



...WHILE HIS ARCH-ENEMY WATCHES HIS EVERY MOVE WITH SINISTER GLEE...



HE IS ENTERING HIS HOUSE! HE HAS DOOMED HIMSELF! I'VE BEATEN HIM!

THEN, AS THE DOOR
CREAKS SHUT BEHIND
DR. STRANGE...



...AND THE LIGHTS GO
ON WITHIN THE
SHROUDED BUILDING...



...THE ENTIRE BUILDING
BEGINS TO SHUDDER...
TO WAVER...TO FADE
FROM SIGHT...



..UNTIL, SECONDS LATER,
THE HOME OF DR. STRANGE,
AND ALL IT CONTAINS,
ARE GONE...VANISHED,
AS THOUGH FROM THE
FACE OF THE EARTH!

HOW EASY IT WAS! HE
SUSPECTED NOTHING!
AND NOW, HE CAN NEVER
ESCAPE ME AGAIN!



MEANTIME, THE ENCHANTED
HOUSE REAPPEARS AGAIN...
BUT THIS TIME IT IS ALONE...
IN THE SHIMMERING VASTNESS
OF AN UNKNOWN DIMENSION!



AND WITHIN THE
BUILDING'S WALLS...

A POWERFUL SPELL
IS AT WORK HERE! I HAVE
BEEN TRANSPORTED TO A
STRANGE DIMENSION, WHERE
I FIND MYSELF WEIGHTLESS
AND HELPLESS.



NO! NOT QUITE HELPLESS!
FOR I STILL HAVE THE POWER
OF MY MAGIC AMULET
TO AID ME!



THE SPELL I AM UNDER IS
TOO STRONG TO BE BROKEN
BY MY PHYSICAL SELF! BUT,
I STILL HAVE A CHANCE! BY
THE POWER OF MY AMULET,
I SHALL CHANGE TO MY
ETHEREAL SELF!



...AND MY
ENCHANTED GEM
WILL UNEARRINGLY
GUIDE ME TO THE
SOURCE OF
THIS OMINOUS
OCCURRANCE!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE..

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9. Those Golden Years
10. Every Beat Of My Heart
11. Turn! Turn! Turn!
12. Tonight
13. Come On In
14. Come Into My Heart
15. You've Lost Love
16. Reunites By The Numbers
17. The Number One
18. Many Ways
19. Unforgettable
20. Where Or When
21. Let It Be Me
22. The World's Gone Owl
23. Baby You Goh What It Takes
24. Baby Worketh
25. I Will Follow You
26. Mr. Bass Man
27. I'm Gonna Love You
28. Young Lovers
29. Don't Be Afraid
30. I'm Gonna Love You
31. Who Put The Song In My Baby?
32. The Golden Cars
33. I'm Gonna Depend On Me
34. The Mountain's High
35. My True Story
36. Without You
37. Burning Lights
38. Wind Tree
39. Funny Love
40. I Do Me
41. I Love The Way You Love Me
42. Young Oak Tree
43. Burning Bridges
44. When You Walk
45. Ain't No Way
46. The Madison
47. The Continental
48. A Little Bitty Tear
49. I Know
50. Norman
51. Dear Ivan
52. Good Times
53. Let The Little Girl Dance
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55. Some Kind Of Magic
56. Daddy's Home
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59. Runnin' Scared
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61. Baby Love
62. Dreamin'
63. Kiddie
64. Yester
65. You
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67. Georgia On My Mind
68. Stay
69. Angel
70. Stay
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72. Poetry In Motion
73. It Might As Well Rain Until Sept.
74. Yester Is Blue
75. Your Moon Is Round
76. Golly Golly Golly Golly
77. Patches
78. When My Little Girl Comes Home
79. Good Luck Charlie
80. Twistin'
81. Johnnie Angel
82. Sherry
83. Dear Old Sweetie
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clothes they could easily pass for us . . . except possibly for that broad upper lip. It seems to have a different construction than ours."

The men communicated with each other by sign language. They talked to each other too, but there was little hope of actual words being understood; however the tone of voice carried a great deal of meaning to both sides. The visitors' voices were calm, unhurried and fairly guttural. Not cold, but very confident. The strangers examined the earth-space ship with great interest. Each new article or control panel they found seemed to give no surprise, and not even the latest advances of our scientists could provoke any curiosity.

Then Jonathan and his Commission were escorted through the aliens' ship and they, on the contrary, were astounded. They pointed to maps on the wall, and Jonathan was made to understand that these 'people' were from the farthest galaxy Earth knew. And yet they explained through drawings that they had made the trip in less than seven revolutions of our earth. "Less than a week," Jonathan murmured to his colleague standing near. "What can we offer them on earth that would be of value to them?"

"And what," his colleague reported, "would prevent them from conquering earth with little or no trouble?"

"Nothing!" Jonathan was forced to reply.

Then the Earth Peace Commission was shown other things. Spectroscopes of Earth compared to their planet showed that they had more minerals in great abundance than we had. A pictorial "history" of the native planet of the visitors showed the Earthmen clearly that they were on a path of conquest throughout the galaxies. They had annexed 12 planets in

little more than three years. By signs, Jonathan asked what happened to the populations of the planets they had taken? The alien merely made what Jonathan thought must be a smile with his strange upper lip, and made the gesture of handcuffs being clamped onto his wrists.

"Slaves!" thought Jonathan grimly:

The presumed conquerors also knew the position of earth in this situation. They were letting none of their advantage escape them. They made a sign to Jonathan, then made a drawing on a piece of what might have been paper. It was clear what



they meant. If, within one week, the earth people weren't able to show them any reason why they should be spared, a fleet of conquerors would be here to take over earth for another conquest.

Jonathan's eyes tried to pierce the cold mask of the intruders. Unconsciously his mouth puckered up and his breath escaped through it quickly into a high, shrill whistle.

"Whew-w-w!"

For the first time, the visitors exchanged looks of surprise. Then they looked back at Jonathan. He guessed at their wonder and just to let them know it was no accident, he did it again.

"Whew-w-w! . . . and he whis-

tled a few tunes too. He then made a quick message to the first mate of their spaceship to go back and find anything that was possible to make music with. Within a few moments, while the Commission was whistling everything they could to the once-hostile strangers, the crew returned bringing back an empty oil can, a harmonica and an accordion. Soon the space platform sounded like a dance hall instead of the somber site for a peace conference.

The sounds of music, strange to the visitors' ears provided an excellent excuse for Jonathan to invite them to visit Earth itself, and listen to some *real* music. Within a week, the aliens had been enchanted and won with Beethoven, Wagner, Brahms and DeBussy.

Jonathan told his Earth Peace Commission at their final meeting, "I might say with confidence that the earth is saved. Not only for the moment, but as long as there are composers who can bring new sounds to our visitors and keep them interested. It has been well established that they cannot make musical sounds themselves, therefore, they must depend upon us for this now indispensable part of their culture . . . music! Our work is done . . . now it's all up to the composers and musicians."

As he left the meeting room, Jonathan looked up into the sky and he saw the spaceship streaming across the horizon on its return voyage to its home planet, loaded with musical instruments and recordings. As its glow faded, Jonathan found himself singing a popular song with more feeling than he ever had before. His voice floated up toward the stars echoing the last words . . . "and it's all over now!"

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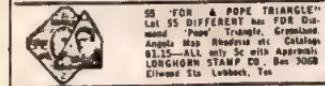
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THERE MUST BE A WAY... THERE MUST!



MEANWHILE, HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD, MORDO FACES THE GREAT DOORS WHICH LEAD TO THE ANCIENT ONE'S RETREAT!

DISTANCES ARE MEANINGLESS TO A DISCIPLE OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! AT LAST I HAVE REACHED MY GOAL!



OH, ANCIENT ONE, YOUR REPENTANT STUDENT HAS RETURNED... TO BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS!



I HAVE LEARNED THE FOLLY OF EVIL! I HAVE COME TO MAKE AMENDS FOR MY PAST DEEDS!



NONE WHO DESIRE TO REPENT SHALL BE TURNED AWAY! ENTER, MORDO!



THE TRUSTING OLD FOOL BELIEVED ME, AS I KNEW HE WOULD! NOW THAT I AM INSIDE, THE REST SHALL BE EASY.



OH, MASTER... I HAVE BEEN WICKED! I BEG YOU TO TEACH ME TO BE GOOD... TO BE NOBLE... LIKE DR. STRANGE!

YOU MAY APPROACH ME, MORDO!



I KNOW I DO NOT EVEN DESERVE YOUR FORGIVENESS, AND YET...

THE CLOSER I GET TO HIM, THE EASIER IT WILL BE!

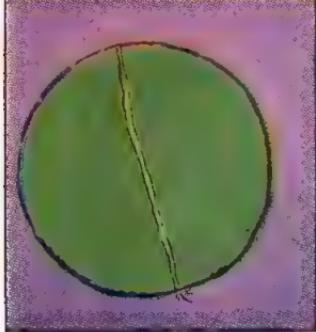


...TEACH ME TO USE MY MAGIC POWERS FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND! TEACH ME, OH HONORED ANCIENT ONE!





"YOU NEVER EXPECTED THAT I WOULD DO SUCH A THING, AND THE FURTHER DOWN I WENT, THE WEAKER YOUR SPELL BECAME... UNTIL AT LAST I EMERGED AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GLOBE, FREE OF YOUR ETHEREAL TRAP!"



"AND THUS I WAS ABLE TO REACH THE ANCIENT ONE BEFORE YOU!"



"WITHIN SECONDS I HAD EXPLAINED HIS DANGER..."



AND IN RETURN, I PRESENT YOU WITH **THIS RING**... WHICH WILL ENABLE YOU TO DO EVERYTHING YOU MIGHT DO IN YOUR REAL-LIFE FORM... SO THAT YOU MAY BATTLE MORDO!



AS FOR ME, I AM OLD AND WEARY! BUT I SHALL PERMIT YOU TO TRANSFORM YOURSELF TO RESEMBLE ME, FOR YOU SHALL BATTLE MORDO IN MY PLACE!



YOU WERE A FOOL TO TELL ME, STRANGE! NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, I KNOW I CAN STILL DEFEAT YOU!



I CALL UPON ALL THE SHADOWY SHAPES, ALL THE DREAD POWERS OF THE MIGHTY DORMAMMU TO COME TO MY AID!!



AND I CALL UPON MY ENCHANTED RING TO SHIELD ME FROM WHATEVER HOSTS OF EVIL YOU CONJURE FORTH!



BY THE POWER OF THE VISHANTI... IN THE NAME OF THE ALL-SEEING ANCIENT ONE... I SUMMON ALL THE FORCES OF GOOD... AND FOCUS THEIR BLINDING POWER UPON YOU, THROUGH THE FACETS OF THIS RING!



NO! NO! I CANNOT BEAR TO LOOK AT IT!

TAKE IT AWAY! ITS
BRIGHTNESS IS APALLING
TO ME!

BUT NO MATTER WHERE THE EVIL
MORDO TURNS, THE RAYS OF THE
ENCHANTED LIGHT REACH OUT
AND BATHE HIM IN THEIR
BRILLIANT GLOW!

IT IS JUST AS THE ANCIENT ONE
HAS EVER SAID! THE POWER OF
GOOD SHALL ALWAYS BANISH
EVIL! NOW I SHALL GATHER ALL
THE SINISTER SPELLS OF MORDO.

...AND HURL THEM BACK
AT HIM, BEFORE HE CAN
CONJURE UP NEW
DEFENSES!

TAKEN BY SHEER SURPRISE...
STRUCK BY THE FORCE AND FURY
OF THE SPELLS HE HAD TRIED TO
DEFEAT DR. STRANGE WITH...
BARON MORDO IS CAST OUT
OF THE ANCIENT ONE'S CASTLE,
IN COMPLETE DEFEAT!

AT THAT VERY INSTANT, THE
EVIL SPELLS HE HAD CAST
ARE BROKEN, AND THE HOME
OF DR. STRANGE REAPPEARS
IN ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE, AS
THE MASTER OF BLACK
MAGIC ONCE AGAIN
REGAINS HIS PHYSICAL FORM!

AND, IN FAR OFF TIBET, THE ANCIENT ONE
ASCENDS HIS DAIS AGAIN AND SINKS DOWN
UPON THE SOFT CUSHIONS OF HIS SEAT...

EACH TIME MORDO
ATTACKS, HE GROWS
STRONGER, MORE
DANGEROUS!

DO NOT FEAR,
MASTER! NO
MATTER HOW
AWESOME HIS
POWER, I SHALL
DEVOTE MY LIFE
TO VANQUISHING
HIM!

BUT, AS DR. STRANGE RETURNS TO HIS SILENT ABOODE
IN GREENWICH VILLAGE, LITTLE DOES HE DREAM THAT HIS
NEXT THREAT WILL NOT COME FROM BARON MORDO...
BUT FROM A FAR DIFFERENT, A FAR STRANGER MENACE...
AS WE SHALL SEE NEXT ISSUE!!

The End

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This famous Blackstone method reveals scores of fabulous magic secrets, inherited from the greatest conjurers and wizards of the past 3,000 years! Shows you in crystal-clear words, step-by-step pictures, exactly how to do the startling tricks that make you a wonderfully welcome party guest . . . a paid performer. Swiftly, almost without trying, you become the center of attraction, the one person in your crowd who's in on everything. You feel the sheer power of REAL POPULARITY.

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always right). You handle decks of cards like an old pro. Which hand holds the hidden coin? . . . YOU know, but nobody else does! You tie and untie complicated knots in a twinkling. You instantly add any two rows of any 5 digits. You instantly add your audience's weight to your own in just one hour! "MYSTERIES OF MAGIC BY BLACKSTONE" puts you in the center of good times, popularity, friends galore. Even brings you BIG MONEY for amateur performances.

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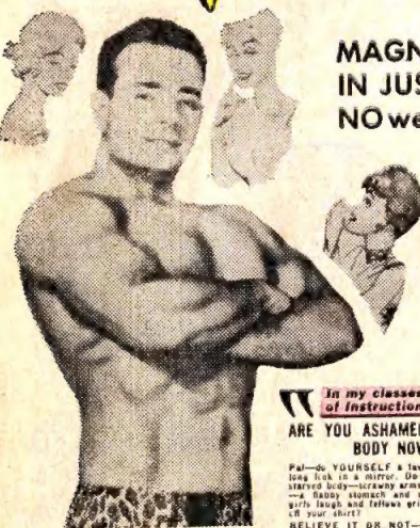
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BOYS! MEN!

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CAN BUILD YOU A

MAGNIFICENT NEW HE-MAN-MUSCLED BODY IN JUST TEN MINUTES A DAY—with absolutely NO weights—NO bar-bells—NO EXERCISE AT ALL!



In my classes this same course
of instruction would cost \$10.00.

ARE YOU ASHAMED OF YOUR BODY NOW?

Pal—do YOURSELF a favor! Take a good long look in a mirror. Do you see a puny, starved body—scrawny arms—bony shoulders —weak legs? Do you hear a girl's giddy laugh and fellow grin when you take off your shirt?

Believe it or not—I can add solid power-packed muscle to your frame MEAT to your build. I can take those scrawny arms and FACE THEM AS "MAN MUSCLES"! I can

take that caved-in chest and build an air rugged stance of strong clean BRAWNS. I can take that paper-thin skinny frame with GIANT RIPPED DYNAFLEX MUSCLE and make the arms full with awe and admiration. And with NO tiring exercise, NO high-priced bar-bells, NO equipment.

Or is your problem a body sagging with soft rolls of unhealthiness, FAT? Fatty muscles—sagging stomach—blown hips? Then I can give you a super-toned, fit, SLIM, SENSATIONAL body. Are you ASHAMED to go to the beach? Then I can build and let them see your "FAT-MAN MYSTERY."

If so, wake up fatal! THIS IS IT! I will pack off that fat and give you a firm virile DYNAFLEX body with a broad hard midsection and rock-hard tendons muscle. I can build you into a healthy, streamlined HERCULES—strong, powerful, fit, slim, and trim.

I'll give you a rock-hard midsection—legs muscled like coiled steel springs. I can give you a super-toned, fit, SLIM, SENSATIONAL body. Are you ASHAMED to go to the beach? Then I can give you a rugged handsome build built from the inside. SUPER-BODD SEX-APPEAL! You'll be fit, slim, and trim. And NO starvation diets—NO fatiguing calisthenics—NO excessive health-foods!

HOW DYNAFLEX BUILDS BEAUTIFUL BODIES

DYNAFLEX is the modern miracle of body building. It gives you a trim, sex-cites "crash" diet, plus fresh foods, and no weights or bar-bells. DYNAFLEX is the amazing discovery of a West German Doctor

Yes! If the girls LAUGH at you now when you take off your shirt—they'll be breaking down the doors to get dates with you—once they've seen the rugged DYNAFLEX BODY I can give you! I'll build you a tough brutal massive body—shoulders clad with solid inches of he-man BRAWN. I'll give you bulging biceps, trip-hammer fists, power-packed legs, and a chest that will have you popping the buttons off your shirt with pride!

(—says MIKE MARVEL,
"Builder of Champion Bodies")

*Mike
Marvel*

ARE YOU WEAK, ALWAYS TIRED, LACK PEP?

Whether you're thin and scrawny, or strong and muscular, fat or lean, weak or fast-twitched, DYNAFLEX will drag pep, vigor, enthusiasm and energy out of you. It gives you a two-fisted dynamo of manly beauty, rippling with power, glowing with magnificence, and packed with sex-citement. And—go, Man, you'll be really ALIVE, tingling with zest and rippling energy—*use the Dynaflex System!*

PROOF!

"I tried two other systems before my buddy told me about DYNAFLEX. It really worked, but I've never been able to solid muscle as big as I am now. I still have a chest. It's like magic!"

—John, New York City

"I never thought you could build Terry-Genes without exercise or weights. DYNAFLEX is the answer. I am very, very fit and building great physique."

E. G. Detroit, Mich.
"DYNAFLEX is the best way I know to lose weight, and I have heard that I can handle it. I am telling all my pals about DYNAFLEX."

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When research into the Sciences of Strength found a thrilling new way to build GIANT BRAWNY MUSCLES in ten minutes a day without weights or bar-bells, it was an instant—a certain way—that was more effective than if you exercised that muscle 30 minutes a day with weights and bar-bells. With DYNAFLEX you get bigger results in ten minutes than you could ever get in cranking away at a machine with heavy weights. DYNAFLEX causes each muscle in your body to bring in its reserves of strength and energy. DYNAFLEX attacks that muscle with glorious vibrant new strength and endurance. You can now grow your own body frame with healthy rippling muscle—give you a deep, powerful, strong, trim, sex-cited, fit, slim, well-toned, skin midsection—and trim, steel-spring legs—simply thru DYNAFLEX. There's nothing wrong with the bar-bell and weight-lifting method—but don't be afraid to give up that old way and switch over to DYNAFLEX. It's a brand new way to strengthen and strain your body to a streamlined symmetrical BANNER STRONG BODY—without a sweat! It's better than ever before with the DYNAFLEX SECRET!

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Be honest. Down deep you KNOW you are very, the boy with the virile, magnificent physique. You want to be a strong, broad brawn body, a solid man-muscled chest, handsome he-man shoulders, arms with a deep, powerful, strong, trim, slim waist, slim hips and springy, power-packed legs. Girls go for you follow. DYNAFLEX gives you a sex-cited, fit, slim, trim, strong, sex-appeal—and they only laugh at skinny guys or "fatsies".

Now give you a glowing new body, brimming over with energy and irresistible inches of solid, sex-cited, fit, slim, trim, strong, sex-appeal. You can build those inches of beef and brawn on your shoulders. I can give you a broad, sex-cited, fit, slim, trim, strong, sex-appeal. You can have a crushing girl, legs encircled with steel springs. A lean, trim, sex-cited, fit, slim, trim, strong, sex-appeal. Pack that body with energy and thrilling stamina that will make girls falling at your feet.

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GIVE ME JUST ONE EVENING and I'LL TEACH YOU TO HYPNOTIZE EASILY!



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MAGNETIC INFLUENCE

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HOW TO ENTERTAIN

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For years the knowledge of how to produce hypnotic sleep has been so well hidden that the average person has mastered this art. But now the veil of secrecy has been lifted and the innermost SECRETS and techniques revealed for the first time. The fact is that Hypnotism is a scientific fact and can be learned. Once you know these secrets and methods you can bring about this strange and wonderful control that has only been used by doctors, psychiatrists and entertainers in the past. Yes, now this remarkable power will be yours to use for pleasure, self-development and countless other benefits.

YOU CAN PERFORM ANY HYPNOTIC FEAT!

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Here at last is the most perfect, complete and easily-learned course on Hypnotism ever written. In three short, simple chapters you learn the hidden secrets of Hypnotism and how to work this great miracle. No long, technical, mumbo-jumbo ex-

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How often have you wished that you could EXERT A MAGNETIC POWER and INFLUENCE OVER OTHERS? Get people to respond to your every command; with respect, admiration and awe. You can do it. You can even DREAM NO LONGER! It's all possible through the secret, magnetic power of Hypnotism. You'll not only be MASTER OVER OTHERS but also yourself. You can BUILD A STRONG, MAGNETIC PERSONALITY thru Self-Hypnotism. You use Mesmerism to READ THE MINDS of others and PLANT YOUR Thoughts in their minds. You can direct your own to ACCOMPLISH anything, as easily as you can command others. You have the power to accomplish your innermost dreams.

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